

THE WASHINGTON TIMES PAGE OF ELECTRICAL NEWS AND NOTES

CORDS SHOULD LAST FOR YEARS WITH GOOD CARE

Most of Annoyances on Washing Machines Are Traced to Carelessness.

Do not allow the cords of electrical appliances to drag about the floor unnecessarily. When through using any appliance, coil the connecting cord and hang it out of the way. Most of the annoyances experienced by users of electric washing machines and ironers can be traced to "cord trouble," which is caused by cords being allowed to get wet or worn by being trampled under foot upon the laundry floor.

Connecting cord for electrical devices is made as strong and as nearly waterproof as possible, and with reasonable care will last many years. But this cord, in order to be flexible, is necessarily subject to wear. The wire itself is made of many very fine strands; the insulation must be pliable, and this means that strength is necessarily sacrificed; it must be fastened to small and handy plugs, so that slenderness is requisite.

Yet despite the limitations which compel the manufacturers to produce connections which are thin, light and flexible, it is remarkable how sturdy these cords are. The clusters or "strands" of fine copper are wrapped in cotton thread, then in pliable rubber composition, then both strands are encased in stout insulation having several layers and proportionately as sturdy as a good automobile tire.

It takes a great deal of abuse with long wear care to injure a good appliance connecting cord, but this cord, like the machine, requires its modicum of care. Keep it dry. Keep it coiled up and out of the way when not in use. Avoid "kinking" it. If it follows these three simple and common sense rules your cord will give you no trouble.

RESTFUL LIGHT REVEALS CHARM OF HOUSEHOLD

Different Colored Lights Produce Varied Effects on Persons and Things.

Colorful lighting in some of our theaters in connection with symphonic programs, notably the Sunlight lighting for the William Tell overture, suggests the possibility of colored lighting for decorative purposes in the home.

May not the color of home lighting be gauged to increase the intimate hospitality of a fireside grouping, to intensify the beauty of a picture, to cast lovely-hued shadows on objective points?

Experiments prove that these effects may be secured, but that they exact more care and restraint than commercial and theatrical usage. For real charm, says an authority, use colored light for high lights, not for flood light.

The magic of a colored lamp may make a wall paper which is soft yellow in day time appear tinged with a warm red one at night, while this same room on a summer night may appear coolly refreshing under a daylight lamp.

Rose light brings out becoming flesh tints in the complexion which a greenish light would distort in a ghastly way. Accordingly, the general color of living rooms should be the soft, restful light which filters through rose, gold, amber, medium and light yellow, and orange.

Here and there spots and fleckings of more emphatic color will add emphasis and create interest. For example, the general lighting of a living-room might be a warm pinkish yellow. Then for the interesting high lights, a very deep colored lamp could be placed to cast brilliant green or purple glints on the bronze of a statue, or the lacquered surface of a bowl. Screens of colored gelatine-paper as well as colored bulbs of the lamps themselves are used to provide the accenting color.

ELECTRIC IRON COOKS DELECTABLE WAFFLES

"New Maple Syrup" announces the grocer's sign, and even the most lapsed appetite quickens. To the tired palate it's like a bit of liquid spring, flavorful with new, growing things, this honeyed sap. How would you like some welling up in each little square and trickling delicious rivulets down the crisp sides of waffles hot from the griddle?

For Easter breakfast you can give yourself this luscious treat, doing the cooking right at the table without grease or smoke—if you have an electric waffle-iron switch on the current, put in the batter, and in just three minutes eat three piping waffles.

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OLD HOUSE WIRING

Electric Bulb Makes Darning at Night Simple

A housewife reports to the electrical editor that she always found darning at night an ordeal until she discovered that by inserting an electric light in the stocking and darning over the illuminated glass end, the process was simplified. Aside from the light enabling her to work faster and more neatly, the glass surface provides an excellent darning.

HINTS TO THOSE WHO EXPECT TO BUILD A HOME

Three-Way Switch and Other Seemingly Small Details Are Essentials.

Electrical Editor: Will you please tell me what is a "standard plug" and why?

MRS. MARQUARDT.

Are you building this spring or wiring the house you now live in? If so, the seasoned electrical man has a word of warning for you. It is, "Don't forget the three-way switch and other small details of wiring and electrical equipment."

And what, you ask, may a "three-way switch" be?

Simply the switch which is arranged so as to permit a light to be turned on or off at either one of two places. They are found most frequently in front halls of residences, so that the hall and stairway lights may be turned on or off either upstairs or down, but this is only one of several places at which they should be installed.

There will be less danger of stumbling into flower beds and tomato patches in the backyard on the late-at-night trips to and from the garage if the lights out rear may be controlled from the house. Cellar stairs are less difficult to navigate if the lights may be flicked on first. The back stairs, and the lights in the attic should be thus provided for. The expense of installing these three-way switches is not great, though of course it adds to the cost of the wiring. Like many another electrical feature, the few dollars invested is sure to be justified in the increased convenience and safety which results.

The electrically lighted house number is another convenience you will not wish to overlook. The tiny light which burns behind the number consumes but a trifling amount of current, yet supplies a door-bell ring light during the evening, and does away with considerable annoyance both for yourself and for passers-by who may be peering about in the dusk for a number. A door-bell transformer is another small, but important, item to be remembered. It enables you to use the regular house current for the door-bell, and puts a end to the nuisance of being obliged to renew batteries every now and then.

The motor-operated furnace regulator will save you many a sigh and an unhappy early morning trip to the basement when you find you have thought to install it now. And you will not want to neglect such little comfort points as radiator markers to illumine the electric light switches, and turn-down lights for night use in bath and nursery, for dark back halls and entries.

Of course, you will take care first of all to provide plenty of outlets throughout the house for convenient use of the various electrical appliances—but that is another story entirely, and not related to this reminder of some of the smallest details of planning the home electrical equipment.

HOW YOU CAN BE SURE YOUR LIGHTING IS RIGHT

You do not need to be an illuminating engineer to know whether your home lighting is right. In your own living room, you can apply these tests.

Is your light so diffused that you can sit in any position and read or sew comfortably? Are your lights so arranged that no direct rays of light are reflected into the eye from your book or paper, impairing vision and causing eye strain? Are you sure that no direct rays will strike the eye while you are either standing or sitting?

Can you group around the piano without casting shadows on the music score or play without discomfort? Can you read and select without inconvenience the names of records at the Victrola in the corner?

Are the details of pictures and portraits, or the beauties of furniture and draperies plainly visible from all parts of the room?

Is there an absence of "light spots" caused by lamps or otherwise, which induce eye strain by the repeated effort of looking at bright

MAKE UP A PARTY and COME

Last Wednesday evening almost 200 people enjoyed our radio-phone concert.

You and your friends are cordially invited to be our guests at our radio-phone concert at 8:15 p. m., Wednesday, March 29—you'll hear the finest of vocal and instrumental music, all sung and played many miles away.

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SING A SONG OF RADIO--- A POCKETFUL OF WIRES



Sister has forgotten all about bobbed hair and galoshes. She now sits on the roof and "eavesdrops on the nation." Verily, the radio "bug" has supplanted everything else in point of popularity. It has become the rage of America. You see Sgt. Lawrence W. Bock, radio operator at Fort McPherson, listening to concert singing by Galli Curci. Army camps are hearing things now. Baby Helen Nairns, of Jersey City, N. J., also gets "an earful."

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If you are confronted with any question or problem concerning the use of electricity or electrical devices, in your home, let the Electrical Editor of The Washington Times help you.

All questions submitted in writing by readers of this page will be cheerfully, authoritatively, and fully answered.

Attachments Valuable.

Electrical Editor: In purchasing a vacuum cleaner, I am in doubt as to whether or not to buy the attachments. I know so many people who have bought them and never used them.

J. R. D.

If the suction of the attachments are exceedingly valuable, for then they will do good work in cleaning over-stuffed furniture, drapes, moldings and all sorts of places which are hard to reach with dust-cloth or brush.

In using the flat nozzle attachment, without a brush, you must remember to tilt it slightly as you sweep it over the surface, for if it is held flat, very little air can enter, and you have practically no suction at all. Frequently people will run this nozzle over a piece of upholstered furniture, pressing it down hard, and then wonder why it fails to remove the dust. They do not realize that when they place the flat nozzle against the fabric they practically seal the air out of the tube.

Buttons Are Safe.

Electrical Editor: How about running garments with buttons on them through the electric ironer? I should be afraid I'd have to be sewing buttons on all the time, if I used one—though I must confess that the prospect of having everything ironed mechanically is very inviting.

MRS. PAXTON.

Ordinarily each button will lie flat as the garment goes through the ironer, and there should be no trouble of this sort. Housewives who do their ironing say that occasionally, when they are not watching, a button may lie twisted to one side as it passes between the roller and the shoe, and then it will, of course, be broken. This does not happen nearly so often as it does between the rollers of the clothes wringer, however, because the garment is flat as it passes through the ironer.

ELECTRICAL EDITOR.

and dark spots, contracting and dilating the pupil of the eye? Illumination is the result of the proper application and distribution of light. The prime function of the lighting fixture is so to distribute the light that good illumination is provided. Do your living room fixtures do this?

Where the Gain Is.

Electrical Editor: You have described an electric water-heating tank with a U-shaped outlet pipe, which, it was stated, would seal the hot water in the tank, on the siphon principle, until a faucet was opened somewhere in the house. I do not understand what gain there is in this, for surely the pipe leading to the faucet is filled all the way with water when the faucet is shut off, even if you do have this seal and the heat from that long pipe full of water is lost. Will you please explain this more in detail? B. H.

You are overlooking the fact that in the ordinary hot-water pipe there is constant circulation of water. As the water in the pipe cools it drops back into the tank and hot water rises to take its place, which means that heat is continually being consumed in heating and reheating the water. The U-shaped pipe puts an end to this circulation, and hence conserves the heat, which is automatically controlled. Since, in addition, the tank and pipes are swathed in asbestos, the electric current is used in the most economical way possible.

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LIGHTING STUNT ADDS CHARM TO DINNER PARTY

Contrast of Ancient Candles With Modern Electric Illuminating Devices Effective.

A past-and-present party is an entertainment device that can mix to good purpose the charm of the past with the jazz fun of the present.

The clever hostess can work out effective contrasts in her invitations, menu, entertainment, and table decorations. The invitations may carry out the then-and-now idea by beginning in flowing, old-time script penned in violet ink and ending in typewriting. But the most vivid contrast of all can be made between old-time lighting and modern decorative electricity.

With as much mock formality as you can summon, usher the guests into a candle-light room. Also use candles as table lights and decorations during the first courses of the menu. Then, at a signal, have the guests blow out the flickering candle flames and with these lights, their revival of the quaint and prim past.

For a minute the room will be in darkness, then it is time to push the button that will illuminate an electric centerpiece which has been arranged to give these delight-provoking results: For a moment the room will seem flooded with a wonderful array of valentines, with little luminous red hearts glowing, disappearing, and miraculously reappearing.

It is a simple enough scheme to contrive, but the effect is like a stage trick. In the table center, asparagus fern is heaped about some attractive inverted bowl of milky hue, translucent glass, or thin luster ware.

But such a bowl! As the lights go on it bursts into a glow of lighted hearts that come and go, first red, then blue, orange, and finally red again.

The explanation? Hearts have been cut out of a preparation of gelatin such as is used to make colored lights on the stage. These are pasted under the bowl. A Christmas tree lighting outfit is connected up and the cord decorated with fern. Then an ingenious "winking" device, procurable from any electrical dealer, flashes the tiny lights on and off, in fascinating trickery. With the turning on of the lights, the colored lights gleam and glint and the little colored hearts beat and glow.

This inexpensive lighting stunt puts an ultra-modern electrical touch to the climax of a past-and-present party.

The Electric Tea-Ball.

As modern invention turns out one ingenious device after another, the possibilities of combining two or more familiar inventions into a piece of apparatus of multiple utility are always increasing. The electric heating element is one invention, and the tea-ball is another; and now we have the two combined into a single unit. The tea-ball is filled and placed in the water as usual; only now it is on the end of a cord. The switch is turned, and the heater which is of the immersion type, gets busy. In short order the water is boiling and the tea infusion is ready for the table.

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ELECTRIC IRONER GREAT TIME SAVER

This is an example of what an electric ironer can do in one hour:

Two tablecloths, eight dinner napkins, one lunch cloth, three sheets, four pillow cases, one bed spread, twelve towels, four dollies, one centerpiece, two pairs curtains, one dresser scarf, twenty handkerchiefs, twelve pair hose, two rompers, four suits underwear, and four nightgowns and pajamas.

By the old tedious hand way, this ironing would take five hours.

LABOR SAVERS ARE NOT CONSIDERED LUXURIES

When the conscientious home manager weighs the pros and cons of the purchase of an electric cleaner, a percolator, a toaster, or washing machine, she sometimes decides "No" on this basis: "We can't afford it. I can get along without; therefore it would be extravagant to buy now. Labor-savers are really luxuries."

It is easy to understand her point of view in conserving resources, but it is not quite fair to term all the things she can get along without "luxuries." Viewed that way, we could scrap civilization.

On the other hand, here are a few of the items which do spend money for: In 1919, 38,900,000 cigarettes, 64,000,000 chocolate almond bars and 15,000 talking machines.

When these expenditures are looked at dispassionately and apart from one's personal failing for cigarettes, almond bars, or talking machines, it would appear that the housewife can afford labor-savers. Canned melody, candy and tobacco all fill a very real need, probably, but in the rational home should they not come after the debt "electric broom" that cleans without backache in less than half the time of the old method, or after the washing machine that makes electricity do the work of knuckles and arm power?

Makes Rugs Mothproof.

Portieres, draperies, and floor coverings that are gone over frequently with a vacuum cleaner are virtually mothproof. Moth eggs, it seems, cannot long withstand the searching cleaning of the electric suction.

Therefore if you have an electric fan, get full value from it by using it to solve your early spring heating problems. If you are planning on one for this summer, set the purchase ahead to now so that you may enjoy several additional months' service from your fan.

At Your Service

"Pepco" service is the fountain of home comfort. It supplies life to the "electrical servants" that make the housewife happy and the home the essence of comfort. It makes these things possible:

The Electric Light, which does away with eye strain and makes the home a place of joy in the evenings.

The Electric Appliance for the table, which prepares such dainty meals without heat and fuss or running to and fro.

The Electric Fan, which brings happiness and comfort on the hottest days.

The Electric Cleaner, which searches every nook and cranny for dirt and dust and makes no demands on the strength of the housewife.

The Electric Washer, which takes over the weekly drudge of washing and leaves the housewife free to attend to her other household and social duties.

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